

REMARKS

Claims 11-26 have been cancelled, claims 3 and 8 amended, and claims 27-40 added, leaving claims 3-10 and 27-40 subject to continued examination. No new matter has been added.

Rejection under 35 USC §102(b)

Claims 3-7 and 10-26 have been rejected under 35 USC §102(b) as being anticipated by Padwick et al., a Microsoft Outlook user's manual. Claims 11-26 have been canceled, and claim 3 has been amended.

The Examiner asserts that claim 3-7 and claim 10 are anticipated by Padwick et al. Applicant maintains that Padwick does not anticipate claim 3 because it does not teach receiving "a predefined string of characters representing information that is to be inserted into the electronic document," nor automatically opening a messaging module in response to recognizing the string, even if the term "string of characters" is read broadly to encompass control characters generated by menu selections or mouse clicks. Applicant contends that the system taught by Padwick does not teach the claimed invention at least because Padwick does not teach entering a string of characters that "represent information that is to be inserted into the document," as required by the rejected claim. However, to expedite prosecution claim 3 has been amended to recite a text editing system comprising a document generation module configured to "receive from a user a predefined string of characters identifying the location of unknown information and to enter into the electronic document a placeholder for the unknown information at the location specified by the user with the predefined string." It is submitted that this amendment even more clearly distinguishes the cited reference, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn with respect to claims 3-7 and 10.

Applicant submits new claims 29-38, which are patentable over the art of record at least because claim 28 requires, among other things, recognizing a manually entered string of characters in a text document as a placeholder for missing information, and in response to that recognition, opening a messaging window. Claim 28 also requires automatically updating the saved document, upon receipt of a response to a query, to contain information contained within

the response. There is nothing in Padwick to suggest this capability or its desirability as a method of editing text, nor is there anything in Padwick to lead someone toward Applicant's conceptual discovery. Accordingly, new independent claim 28 and its dependents are submitted as being patentable over the cited art.

Rejections under 35 USC §102(e)

Claim 8 has been rejected under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by Brown. The Examiner asserts that Brown discloses a method that anticipates claim 8. Applicant respectfully disagrees. Brown discloses a method of providing translation services for telecommunication processes. The method disclosed in Brown translates a telephone number, or some other "unique identifier for the addressee," into an electronic mail address. Brown thus discloses a method for translating from one piece of unique identifying information to another, as in the translation between a telephone number and an e-mail address. Brown does not anticipate claim 8 at least because it does not disclose automatically assembling a query including "a set of context data extracted from the electronic document" proximate to a user-defined unknown. The translation service disclosed in Brown requires that the unique identifier itself is the only piece of information used to correctly address the electronic message. By contrast, in the method recited in amended claim 8 the "predefined string" represents a placeholder for the unknown information, and the context of the document surrounding the string is evaluated to determine or identify what information is desired. It should be noted that in Applicant's first example on page 9 of the application, in which the unknown information was a zip code, it was the text entry of the predefined string or universal variable 'MJIK' as a placeholder, rather than the address in a particular field, that prompted automatic document updating with the zip code corresponding to the address proximate the predefined string. In this example, even the fact that the unknown information is a zip code must be determined from the context surrounding the placeholder. This is a much more extensive and robust means of document editing than entering a specific identifier into an associated field, for retrieving a related piece of information from a relational database, and enables much more sophisticated document updates.

To expedite prosecution, claim 8 has been amended to recite a “document editing method” comprising receiving a predefined string of characters representing a placeholder for unknown information, and automatically assembling a query including data extracted from the document proximate to the placeholder. It is submitted that this amendment even more clearly distinguishes Brown, and Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection be withdrawn.

Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 USC §103 as being obvious over Brown in view of Padwick. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Neither Brown nor Padwick disclose, alone or in combination, the concept of *identifying*, from context data included in a transmitted query, what information is unknown and associated with a placeholder in a document on one computer, *searching* a remote database for such unknown information, and then *automatically inserting* the missing information into the electronic document. Padwick simply discloses the raw menu tools that *could* be employed to *manually* update a document in response to receiving missing information from a remote source, or to establish a permanent hyperlink in a document to reference data in a remote object. Therefore, there is nothing in Padwick that, even if one were to consider Padwick for improvements to Brown as the Examiner suggests, would result in the claimed document editing method.

Applicant asks that all pending claims be further examined in view of the above amendments and remarks. While Applicant has made a good faith effort to address all of the Examiner's concerns and believes the presented claims embody a non-obvious advance over the art of record, Applicant is concerned that either the salient features of the invention or the Examiner's arguments have not been fully appreciated, and respectfully requests with this RCE that the undersigned attorney be granted a telephone interview for the purpose of resolving any remaining issues.

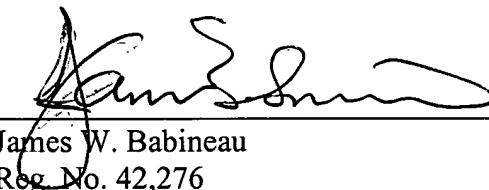
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Page : 10 of 10

Attorney's Docket No.: 13605-004001

No excess claims fees are believed due. Enclosed is a \$60 check for the Petition for Extension of Time fee, the one-month extension deadline landing on July 23, 2005, the preceding Saturday. Please apply any other charges or credits to deposit account 06-1050, referencing the above attorney docket number.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: July 25, 2005



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